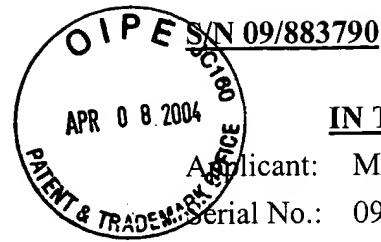


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AP/3711

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Matthew Vacek et al.
Serial No.: 09/883790
Filed: June 18, 2001
Title: COMPOSITE SOFTBALL BAT

Examiner: Mark Graham
Group Art Unit: 3711
Docket No: 1470.001US1

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS APPEAL BRIEF - PATENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O.Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Prior to consideration of Appellants' Brief on Appeal filed herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows.